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Darin Bergquist Selected As 2011 Henry Toll Fellow

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist is one of 48 promising state leaders from across the nation selected for the prestigious Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

The annual seminar, named in honor of Henry Toll, a Colorado senator who founded CSG in 1933, seeks to develop the next generation of leaders from all three branches of state government. The experience gives the participants perspectives they would not ordinarily obtain during the course of their regular government service.

This year's program will be held Sept. 9-14 at Lexington, Ky, and will focus on policy development, trends analysis, media and constituent relations, and leadership and institutional changes.

Bergquist was nominated by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, with endorsements from South Dakota Chief Financial Officer Jason Dilges and State Adjutant General Tim Reisch. Dilges received the Toll Fellowship in 2009, and Reisch received the honor last year.

“Darin is a top-notch leader who excels in his job,” Gov. Daugaard said. “I’m pleased that he’s been selected for this honor and the opportunity to gain additional leadership skills and knowledge.”

Bergquist was selected from outstanding applicants from across the nation by a committee of elected and appointed state officials as one of the most promising leaders of state government. Past Toll Fellowship graduates include governors, other state leaders, U.S. Senators and members of Congress.

Bergquist has been Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Transportation since 2007.

The Council of State Governments is the premier multibranch organization forecasting policy trends for the community of states, commonwealths and territories on a national and regional basis. CSG alerts state elected and appointed officials to emerging social, economic, and political trends; offers innovative state policy responses to rapidly changing conditions; and advocates multistate problem-solving to maximize resources and competitiveness. CSG promotes excellence in decision-making and leadership skills, and it champions state sovereignty.